

CLAIM LISTING

Please cancel claims 1, 5-7 and 24 without prejudice, and please amend claims 3-4, 8, 12-15 and 19-23, and please add new claims 25-33, all as indicated in the following claims listing:

Claims 1-2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended). The printing system of claim 25[[1]], wherein said storage device is configured to store ~~and retrieve~~ a plurality of rasterized print jobs generated by said ~~processor and said system further comprises~~ a plurality of image producing devices, said plurality of image producing devices being in communication with ~~[[a]]~~the network.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The printing system of claim 25[[1]], further comprising~~[[:]]~~ one or more print job generators, each print job generator being configured to generate a respective print job, said print job generators being in communication with ~~[[a]]~~the network.

Claims 5-7 (canceled).

Claims 8 (currently amended). An image producing device comprising~~[[:]]~~ a processor with software configured to receive an unrasterized version of a print job instruction and, in response to said instruction, retrieve a rasterized version of the print job from a storage device external to said image producing device; ~~and wherein said device is configured to generate a rasterized print job and send the rasterized print job to an external storage device.~~

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (original). The image producing device of claim 8, wherein said software on said processor is configured to generate instructions relating to one or more print jobs and to send said instructions to at least one of an external storage device and/or another image producing device, through a network.

1 Claim 11 (original). The image producing device of claim 8, wherein said processor
2 is configured to merge two separate print jobs into a single print job, where at least
3 one of said print jobs is received from an external storage device.

4 Claim 12 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]The method for use in creating an image on print~~
5 ~~media said method of claim 30, further comprising the steps of:~~

6 determining that ~~[[a]]the~~ print job ~~is should be~~ divided among multiple image
7 producing devices; and

8 sending ~~[[said]]the~~ print job to multiple image producing devices.

9 Claim 13 (currently amended). The method of claim 12 further comprising ~~the step~~
10 ~~of: sending~~ ~~[[said]]the~~ print job to an external storage device with an instruction for an
11 image producing device to execute ~~[[said]]the~~ print job~~[[;]]~~.

12 Claim 14 (currently amended). The method of claim 12 further comprising ~~the step~~
13 ~~of: dividing~~ ~~[[said]]the~~ print job into segments for execution in multiple steps.

14
15 Claim 15 (currently amended). A method for use in creating an image on print media
16 said method comprising the steps of:

17 receiving, for a first time, an unrasterized print job from a device on a network;

18 processing said unrasterized print job into a rasterized print job;

19 sending the rasterized print job to an external storage device;

20 retrieving, for a first time, the rasterized print job from the external storage
21 device; ~~[[and]]~~

22 receiving, for a second time, the unrasterized print job;

23 retrieving, for a second time, the rasterized print job from the external storage
24 device; and

25 generating an image from said rasterized print job using an image producing
device.

Claims 16-18 (cancelled).

1 Claim 19 (currently amended). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step
2 of[[:]] receiving an instruction to retrieve [[a]]the print job from [[an]]the external
3 storage device.

4 Claim 20 (currently amended). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step
5 of[[:]] determining whether [[a]]the print job is stored on the external storage device in
6 rasterized form by checking a directory to determine whether the rasterized print job
7 is stored on [[an]]the external storage device.

8 Claim 21 (currently amended). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step
9 of[[:]] sending the rasterized print job to a plurality of image producing devices.

10
11 Claim 22 (currently amended). The method of claim 15, further comprising the step
12 of[[:]] sending data to at least [[an]]the external storage device and/or a second
13 image producing device.

14 Claim 23 (currently amended). A printing system comprising:

15 means for printing including means for rasterizing a print job to produce a
16 rasterized version of said print job;

17 means for transmitting, in response to rasterizing, said rasterized version of
18 said print job externally of said means for printing;

19 means for storing, in response to transmitting, said rasterized version of said
20 print job externally of said means for printing;

21 means for receiving a request to print said print job; and

22 means for retrieving, in response to receiving said request, said rasterized
23 version of said print job back to said means for printing.

24 Claim 24 (canceled).

25 (Continued on next page.)

1 Claim 25 (new). A printing system, comprising:

2 a storage device in communication with a network; and

3 a server in communication with the network, the server configured to:

4 receive an unrasterized version of a given print job from the network;

5 and

6 in response to receiving the print job, search the storage device to

7 determine whether a rasterized version of the given print job is stored on the

8 storage device.

9 Claim 26 (new). The printing system of claim 25, further comprising a print engine in
10 communication with the network, wherein the server is configured to send the
11 rasterized version of the given print job to the print engine.

12 Claim 27 (new). A printing system, comprising:

13 means for receiving an unrasterized version of a print job from a network;

14 means for determining whether a rasterized version of the print job is stored

15 on a storage means connected to the network;

16 means for retrieving the rasterized version of the print job from the storage

17 means in response to determining that the rasterized version is stored;

18 means for converting the unrasterized print job into rasterized format in
19 response to determining that no rasterized version is stored; and

20 means for sending the rasterized print job to a means for printing an image
21 from the rasterized print job.

22 Claim 28 (new). The printing system of claim 27, further comprising means for
23 processing the stored rasterized version of the print job into a new rasterized print
24 job.

25 Claim 29 (new). The printing system of claim 27, further comprising:

means for determining whether the rasterized version of the print job is
completely rasterized; and

means for completing rasterization of the print job in response to determining
that the print job is not completely rasterized.

1 Claim 30 (new). A printing method, comprising:

2 receiving an unrasterized version of a print job;
3 in response to receiving, determining whether a rasterized version of the print
4 job is stored on a storage device;
5 retrieving the rasterized version of the print job from the storage device in
6 response to determining that the rasterized version is stored;
7 converting the unrasterized print job into rasterized format in response to
8 determining that no rasterized version is stored; and
9 printing an image from the rasterized print job.

10 Claim 31 (new). The method of claim 30, further comprising processing the stored
11 rasterized version of the print job into a new rasterized print job.

12 Claim 32 (new). The method of claim 30, further comprising:

13 determining whether the rasterized version of the print job is completely
14 rasterized; and
15 completing rasterization of the print job in response to determining that the
16 print job is not completely rasterized.

17 Claim 33 (new). A system for use in printing an image, comprising:

18 a network;
19 a storage device in communication with the network;
20 a first processor in communication with the network and configured to:
21 generate an unrasterized version of a print job; and
22 transmit the unrasterized version of the print job over the network;
23 and
24 a second processor in communication with the network and configured to:
25 receive the unrasterized version of the print job from the network; and
in response to receiving the unrasterized version of the print job,
determine whether a rasterized version of the print job is available on the
storage device.

(End of Claim Listing)